

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03

H-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 SCEM-02 /180 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/ICD-JJINGERSOLL:MW

APPROVED BY EB/ORF-JLKATZ

AF/EPS-ROMBARDI

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, EAGR MP

SUBJECT: RE SUGAR: WASHINGTON VISIT OF MAURITIAN OFFICIALS

REF: PORT LOUIS 2003

1. PETER WHITE AND BERNARD BOULLE, ACCOMPANIED BY WASHINGTON LOBBYISTS SHARON AND PIERSON MET DEC. 4 WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JULIUS L. KATZ. MAJOR PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS MAURITIAN VIEWS CONCERNING FUTURE OF US SUGAR LEGISLATION. WHITE AND BOULLE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY U.S. ABANDON COUNTRY QUOTAS AND MOVE TO USDA PROPOSED SYSTEM UNRESTRICTED IMPORTS FROM WORLD MARKET. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT WHY EFFICIENT PRODUCER LIKE MAURITIUS SHOULD FEAR FREELY COMPETITIVE SITUATION, WHITE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MAURITIUS ABLE COMPETE EFFECTIVELY THEY STILL ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE HAVING ASSURED MARKET AT ASSURED PRICE FOR
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KNOWN QUANTITY THEIR SUGAR. AS FOR DESIRED CHANGES CURRENT U.S. SUGAR PROGRAM, VISITORS EXPRESSED HOPE

MAURITIUS MIGHT BE ACCORDED LARGER QUOTA.

2 DISCUSSION WAS BROAD AND CONGENIAL. AS FOR FUTURE
US *EGISLATION KATZ ASSURED VISITORS ADMINISTRATION
CONSIDERING CAREFULLY VARIOUS ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES,
OF WHICH USDA PROPOSAL IS ONE, BUT THAT NO REPEAT NO
ADMINISTRATION POSITION YET DETERMINED. SITUATION

EXPLAINED AS SET FORTH STATE 225729.

3. IN RESPONSE QUESTION EXTENT FUEL SHORTAGE MIGHT
AFFECT MAURITIUS SUGAR PROCESSING, WHITE SAID MILLS
REGULARLY USE CANE WASTE FOR FUEL AND HAVE EXCESS
ENERGY WHICH IS COMMONLY DIVERTED TO OUTSIDE CONSUMERS.
THUS, OIL SHORTAGE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECT ON SUGAR
OUTPUT. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: collinp0
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